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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,920	06/25/2001	Thomas J. Holman	1001.1181102	9756
28075	7590	03/19/2007	EXAMINER	
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC			WITCZAK, CATHERINE	
1221 NICOLLET AVENUE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 800			3767	
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403-2420				

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/888,920	HOLMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Catherine N. Witczak	3767	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2007.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 47-59 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 47-59 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

WWWW 3/13/07

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/12/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Klumpp (US 2,724,736). Klumpp discloses in Figure 1 a monolithic nylon hub capable of receiving and retaining a catheter comprising a strain relief portion (2) molded with grooves extending orthogonally in a helical fashion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are

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such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldenberg et al (US 5,352,198) as modified by Davila (US 5,466,230).

Goldenberg et al disclose in Figure 1 a monolithic catheter hub comprising a threaded hub portion (32) and a strain portion (28) molded as a single piece of a single material, and a lumen configured to receive a nylon or polymer catheter (10). Goldenberg et al disclose the claimed invention except for the strain relief portion being molded with a plurality of grooves extending orthogonally in a helical fashion in the strain relief portion. Davila discloses in Figure 1 it is known to use grooves extending orthogonally in a helical fashion. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as taught by Goldenberg et al with transverse grooves as taught by Davila, since such a modification protect the catheter from bending or kinking (column 3, lines 41-45).

3. Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldenberg et al as modified by Davila in further view of Wijkamp et al (US 5,167,647).

Goldenberg et al in view of Davil disclose the claimed invention except for the hub being molded with wings. Wijkamp et al disclose in Figure 1 it is known to use wings molded to a hub. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as taught by Goldenberg et al as modified by Davila with transverse wings as taught by Wijkamp et al, since such a modification would allow the patient to have a better grip of the hub.

4. Claim 55 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goldenberg et al as modified by Davila in further view of Bartholomew (US 4,802,947).

Goldenberg et al disclose the claimed invention except for the catheter having a flared proximal end. Bartholomew discloses in Figure 1 it is known to use a flared catheter (11 and 13). It would have

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been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as taught by Goldenberg et al with a flared catheter as taught by Bartholomew, since such a modification would provide a tight fit between the hub and catheter.

5. Claims 54, 56, 57, and 58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klumpp as modified by Goldenberg et al.

Klumpp discloses a hub comprising a strain relief portion to be used in securing a cable or conductor. Goldenberg et al teach that it is known to use a catheter hub comprising a strain relief portion. Although Klumpp does not specifically disclose the device being used with a catheter, the device disclosed by Klumpp functions in a similar way to the device of Goldenberg et al in that it is used to provide support and prevention of bending and kinking when attaching a tube-like structure to a device. Therefore, although the field of use may be different, the devices of Goldenberg and Klumpp serve the same purpose of supporting a portion of tubing to prevent it from bending and kinking and therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Klumpp by using a catheter as taught by Goldenberg et al, since such a modification would allow the device of Klumpp to provide support and prevent kinking and bending of a tube to be used in a medical application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 47-56 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine N. Witczak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

cw

~~~~~ 3/13/07

KEVIN C. SIRMONS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Kevin C. Sirmons